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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
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    Attorneys for Plaintiff
11
    UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
                  FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
                                    ) CR No. 06-696-MMM
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                    Plaintiff,
                                      PLEA AGREEMENT FOR DEFENDANT
                                      JOSEPH R. FRANCIS
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                  v.
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     JOSEPH R. FRANCIS,
                                      Hearing:
                                        Date: 9/25/2006
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                    Defendant.
                                        Time: 3:00 pm
                                        Place: Roybal Courtroom 780
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             This constitutes the binding plea agreement between
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   JOSEPH R. FRANCIS ("defendant" or "FRANCIS") and the Obscenity
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   Prosecution Task Force of the Criminal Division of the United
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   States Department of Justice ("OPTF") and the United States
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   Attorney's Office for the Central District of California ("USAO")
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   (collectively the "Government") in the above-captioned case.
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This Agreement is limited to the OPTF and the USAO and cannot

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FILED - WESTERN DIVISION

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forth herein.

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bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities except as expressly set

PACKAGE AGREEMENT

2. FRANCIS acknowledges that this Agreement is part of a package agreement in which the disposition of the charges against FRANCIS is contingent on the disposition of charges against Mantra Films, Inc., and the execution and entry of a deferred prosecution agreement against MRA Holdings, LLC, two companies of which FRANCIS is the founder, CEO, and sole shareholder, in the Northern District of Florida. It is a condition of this Agreement, the failure to satisfy which condition shall constitute a breach of this Agreement, that Mantra Films, Inc., must enter a guilty plea and MRA Holdings, LLC, a deferred prosecution agreement in the Northern District of Florida. FRANCIS acknowledges that he has directed his attorneys to negotiate this Agreement as part of such a package agreement; has discussed with his attorneys, and carefully considered, the possible advantages and disadvantages of entering into this Agreement as part of such a package agreement; is entering into this Agreement as part of such a package agreement freely and voluntarily because he believes this Agreement and the package agreement to be in his best interests; and is not entering into this Agreement as part of the package agreement because of any threats, coercion, or undue influence by the Government or any of the parties to the package agreement or their counsel.

PLEA

3. FRANCIS agrees to waive indictment and plead guilty to a two-count Information to be filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in substantially the form attached as Attachment B (the "Information"), charging that FRANCIS produced, manufactured or published any film, videotape, digital image or picture after November 1, 1990 which contains one or more visual depictions of actual sexually explicit conduct, which was shipped or intended to be shipped in interstate commerce, and for which FRANCIS failed to create or maintain individually identifiable records required by 18 U.S.C. § 2257 and 28 C.F.R. § 75 pertaining to every performer portrayed in such visual depiction, including a legible copy of an identification document.

NATURE OF THE OFFENSE

4. In order for defendant to be guilty of the crimes charged in Counts One and Two of the Information, which charge violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2257(f)(1), the following must be true: FRANCIS produced a film, videotape, or other matter that contained one or more visual depictions made after November 1, 1990, of actual sexually explicit conduct, that is, sexual intercourse, bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, or lascivious exhibition of the genitals or pubic area of any person, and failed to create or maintain an identification document for one or more of the performers who appeared in such visual depiction. Defendant admits that

defendant is, in fact, guilty of these offenses as described in counts One and Two of the Information.

PENALTIES

- 5. The statutory maximum sentence that the Court can impose for each violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2257(f)(1) is: 5 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; alternatively, a term of probation of no less than 1 year nor more than 5 years; a fine of \$250,000; and a mandatory special assessment of \$100. Therefore, the total maximum sentence for all offenses to which defendant is pleading guilty is: 10 years imprisonment; a 3-year period of supervised release; alternatively, a term of probation of no less than 1 year nor more than 5 years; a fine of \$500,000; and a mandatory special assessment of \$200.
- 6. Supervised release is a period of time following imprisonment during which defendant will be subject to various restrictions and requirements. Defendant understands that if defendant violates one or more of the conditions of any supervised release imposed, defendant may be returned to prison for up to 2 years, which could result in defendant serving a total term of imprisonment greater than the statutory maximum stated above.
- 7. Defendant also understands that, by pleading guilty, defendant may be giving up valuable government benefits and valuable civic rights, such as the right to vote, the right to possess a firearm, the right to hold office, and the right to

serve on a jury.

8. Defendant further understands that the conviction in this case may subject defendant to various collateral consequences, including but not limited to, deportation, revocation of probation, parole, or supervised release in another case, and suspension or revocation of a professional license. Defendant understands that unanticipated collateral consequences will not serve as grounds to withdraw defendant's plea of guilty.

FACTUAL BASIS

- 9. Defendant and the Government agree and stipulate to the statement of facts provided below. This statement of facts includes facts sufficient to support a plea of guilty to the charges described in this Agreement. It is not meant to be a complete recitation of all facts relevant to the underlying criminal conduct or all facts known to defendant that relate to that conduct. Defendant and the Government agree and stipulate to the following statement of facts which provide the factual basis underlying this Agreement:
- a) FRANCIS is the founder, CEO and sole shareholder of Mantra Films, Inc., and MRA Holdings, LLC. ("the companies"). The companies produce, market and distribute "Girls Gone Wild" videos and DVDs. In the process of creating these videos, agents of the companies often film individuals engaged in sexually explicit conduct as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(2)(A).
- b) As the CEO and/or primary or sole shareholder of the companies, FRANCIS was during the relevant time period involved

in the day-to-day operations of the companies. As such, FRANCIS (1) established the policies of the companies, (2) established budgets for productions, including monetary incentives to cameramen who film footage for the companies, (3) sometimes directed cameramen and other production staff acting on the companies' behalf in what type of footage they should obtain, (4) decided what venues camera operators would visit to obtain footage to include in the videos, and (5) made most major decisions on behalf of the companies. FRANCIS was also personally involved in persuading performers to engage in sexually explicit conduct, reviewing footage obtained by cameramen, deciding which footage would be used in commercially marketed and released films and deciding how the companies' products would be packaged and marketed. As a result, FRANCIS was producing, as that term is defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256(3), the material that is included in the videos addressed in Counts One and Two.

c) On or about March 31, 2002, a cameraman acting on behalf of the companies and FRANCIS obtained footage of two female performers engaging in actual sexually explicit conduct. The cameraman failed to obtain for either of the performers a legible copy of an identification document as required by 18 U.S.C. § 2257 or 28 C.F.R. § 75 and no such documentation relating to this footage was provided by the cameraman or anyone else to the companies or to FRANCIS. This footage ultimately was included in two different videos commercially marketed for sale

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to the public by FRANCIS and the companies, namely, videos contained on DVDs entitled "Ultimate Spring Break, Volume 3" and "Ultimate Spring Break, Volume 4" ("the videos").

- d) FRANCIS was personally involved in selecting the footage to be included in the videos.
- e) FRANCIS knowingly decided to include the footage referenced above even though neither he nor anyone at the companies obtained a legible copy of an identification document or created or maintained the records required pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2257 or 28 C.F.R. § 75 for the footage or videos referenced above or attempted to verify that such records had been obtained.

WAIVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

- 10. By pleading guilty, defendant gives up the following rights:
 - a) The right to persist in a plea of not guilty.
 - b) The right to a speedy and public trial by jury.
- c) The right to the assistance of legal counsel at trial, including the right to have the Court appoint counsel for defendant for the purpose of representation at trial. (In this regard, defendant understands that, despite his or her plea of guilty, he or she retains the right to be represented by counsel and, if necessary, to have the court appoint counsel if defendant cannot afford counsel at every other stage of the proceedings.)
 - d) The right to be presumed innocent and to have the

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Acceptance of : $\frac{-2}{}$ [U.S.S.G. Responsibility § 3E1.1(a)]

Total Offense Level: 4

Criminal History

Category : I

Guideline Range

<u>0</u> - <u>6</u> months imprisonment

Defendant and the Government agree not to seek, argue, or suggest that any other specific offense characteristics, adjustments, or departures be imposed.

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In light of the sentencing calculation included above, the fact that FRANCIS has represented that he is a first time offender and has no prior criminal convictions, the fact that the companies have instituted procedures to ensure that no further violations occur, the deferred prosecution agreement with MRA Holdings, LLC, and Mantra Films, Inc.'s guilty plea and payments of considerable fines, penalties and restitution in the related cases in the Northern District of Florida, the Government and FRANCIS agree that the appropriate disposition of this case is (1) a probationary sentence, with the length and terms of probation to be determined by the Court, (2) the payment of the maximum fine for each count, resulting in a total fine for both counts of \$500,000, (3) no order for any amount of restitution, and (4) the payment of the mandatory special assessment for each count, resulting in a total special assessment for both counts of The Government agrees to recommend that the fine be

payable within 40 days after sentencing but the failure of the Court to grant this request shall not be a basis for FRANCIS to withdraw his guilty pleas.

- 14. The Government and FRANCIS agree that any fine in this case shall be in addition to, and shall not be offset by, any fines paid by MRA Holdings, LLC, or Mantra Films, Inc., in related cases filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida, except that the combined total amount of the fines and restitution imposed on FRANCIS, MRA Holdings, LLC, and Mantra Films, Inc., shall not exceed \$2.1 million.
- 15. The Government agrees that it will not seek restitution in this case in light of the fact that the companies have agreed to pay restitution in an amount to be determined by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida in the cases pending against MRA Holdings, LLC, and Mantra Films, Inc.
- 16. If the Court rejects the agreed-upon disposition in paragraph 13, this entire Agreement shall be null and void, and FRANCIS will be free to withdraw his pleas of guilty pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(d)(2)(A). In accordance with Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f), evidence of a withdrawn guilty plea or any statements made in the course of plea negotiations shall not be admissible against FRANCIS to the extent provided by Federal Rule of Evidence 410.

- 17. Defendant agrees that he will:
 - a) Plead guilty as set forth in this Agreement.
- b) Not knowingly and willfully fail to abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this Agreement.
- c) Not knowingly and willfully fail to: (i) appear as ordered for all court appearances, (ii) surrender as ordered for service of sentence, (iii) obey all conditions of any bond, and (iv) obey any other ongoing court order in this matter.
- d) Not commit any crime; however, offenses which would be excluded for sentencing purposes under U.S.S.G. § 4A1.2(c) are not within the scope of this agreement.
- e) Not knowingly and willfully fail to be truthful at all times with Pretrial Services, the U.S. Probation Office, and the Court.
- f) Pay the applicable special assessments at or before the time of sentencing, and the fine to be imposed on the schedule ordered by the Court.

THE GOVERNMENT'S OBLIGATIONS

- 18. If defendant complies fully with all defendant's obligations under this agreement, and Mantra Films, Inc., and MRA Holdings, LLC, comply fully with their obligations under their respective plea and deferred prosecution agreements, the Government agrees:
- a) to abide by all sentencing stipulations contained in this agreement; and

- 19. Except as explicitly provided in paragraph 18(b) above, nothing in this Agreement shall protect FRANCIS, Mantra Films, Inc., or MRA Holdings, LLC, from prosecution related to any offense. In addition, FRANCIS acknowledges that this Agreement does not prohibit either the United States or any of its agencies, including in particular OPTF and the USAO, or any third party, from initiating or prosecuting any civil proceedings directly or indirectly involving FRANCIS, Mantra Films, Inc., or MRA Holdings, LLC.
- 20. FRANCIS understands that he may be subject to administrative action by federal, state, or local agencies as a result of the guilty pleas entered pursuant to this Agreement, and that this Agreement in no way controls whatever action, if any, such agencies take.

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BREACH OF AGREEMENT

- If defendant, at any time between the execution of this Agreement and defendant's sentencing on a non-custodial sentence or surrender for service on a custodial sentence, knowingly violates or fails to perform any of defendant's obligations under this Agreement, it shall be a breach of this Agreement and the Government may declare this Agreement breached. Because FRANCIS' quilty pleas and this Agreement are part of a package agreement as specified in Paragraph 2 above, it shall also be a breach of this Agreement, and the Government may declare a breach of this Agreement, if Mantra Films, Inc., fails to enter quilty pleas as outlined in and otherwise comply with the terms of the plea agreement with Mantra Films, Inc., entered into in the Northern District of Florida, or if MRA Holdings, LLC, fails to enter into and comply with the terms of its deferred prosecution agreement in the Northern District of Florida. If the Government declares this Agreement breached, and the Court finds such a breach to have occurred, defendant will not be able to withdraw defendant's guilty pleas, and the Government will be relieved of all of its obligations under this Agreement.
- 22. Following a knowing and willful breach of this
 Agreement by defendant, should the Government elect to pursue any
 charge that was not filed as a result of this Agreement,
 including but not limited to offenses related to the films listed
 in Attachment A, then:

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- b) Defendant gives up all defenses based on the statute of limitations, any claim of preindictment delay, or any speedy trial claim with respect to any such prosecution, except to the extent that such defenses existed as of the date of defendant's signing of this Agreement. Defendant also waives any challenge that it may have to venue in this district.
- c) Defendant agrees that: (i) any statements made by defendant, under oath, at the guilty plea hearing; ii) the stipulated factual basis statement in this Agreement; and iii) any evidence derived from such statements, are admissible against defendant in any future prosecution of defendant, and defendant shall assert no claim under the United States Constitution, any statute, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of Evidence, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or any other federal rule, that the statements or any evidence derived from any statements should be suppressed or are inadmissible in such prosecution.

LIMITED MUTUAL WAIVER OF APPEAL AND COLLATERAL ATTACK

23. Defendant gives up the right to appeal any sentence imposed by the Court, and the manner in which the sentence is determined, provided that the sentence is that agreed to in paragraph 13 above. Defendant also gives up any right to bring a

parent,

post-conviction collateral attack on the convictions or sentence, except a post-conviction collateral attack based on a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, a claim of newly discovered evidence, or an explicitly retroactive change in the applicable Sentencing Guidelines, sentencing statutes, or statutes of conviction. Notwithstanding the foregoing, defendant retains the ability to appeal the conditions of probation imposed by the court, with the exception of the following: mandatory conditions of probation specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a); standard conditions of probation set forth in district court General Orders 318 and 01-05; and the alcohol and drug use conditions authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b)(7).

24. The Government gives up its right to appeal any sentence imposed by the Court, provided that the sentence is that agreed to in paragraph 13 above.

RESULT OF VACATUR, REVERSAL OR SET-ASIDE

25. Defendant agrees that if any count of conviction is vacated, reversed, or set aside the Government may: (a) ask the Court to resentence defendant on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the Government and defendant being released from any stipulations regarding sentencing contained in this Agreement, (b) ask the Court to void the entire plea agreement and vacate defendant's guilty pleas on any remaining counts of conviction, with both the Government and defendant being released from all of their obligations under this Agreement, or (c) leave defendant's remaining convictions, sentence, and plea agreement

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intact. Defendant agrees that the choice among these three options rests in the exclusive discretion of the Government.

COURT NOT A PARTY

The Court is not a party to this Agreement and need not 26. accept any of the Government's sentencing recommendations or the parties' stipulations.

NO ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

27. Except as set forth herein, there are no promises, understandings or agreements between the Government and defendant or defendant's counsel. Nor may any additional agreement, understanding or condition be entered into unless in a writing signed by all parties or on the record in court.

PLEA AGREEMENT PART OF THE GUILTY PLEA HEARING

The parties agree and stipulate that this Agreement will be considered part of the record of defendant's quilty plea hearing as if the entire Agreement had been read into the record of the proceeding.

This Agreement is effective upon signature by defendant and an attorney from the OPTF.

AGREED AND ACCEPTED

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEBRA WONG YANG United States Attorney

BRENT WARD

Director

Obscenity Prosecution Task Force Department of Justice

9.25-06

1 2 part of it with my attorney. I understand the terms of this 3 Agreement, and I voluntarily agree to those terms. My attorney 4 has advised me of my rights, of possible defenses, of the 5 Sentencing Guideline provisions, and of the consequences of 6 entering into this Agreement. I also understand that this 7 Agreement is part of a package agreement involving dispositions 8 of charges against two of my companies in related cases in the Northern District of Florida, have discussed with my counsel the 10 advantages and disadvantages of entering into this Agreement as 11 part of the package agreement, and have voluntarily agreed to 12 enter into this Agreement as part of the package agreement. No 13 promises or inducements have been made to me other than those 14 contained in this Agreement. No one has threatened or forced me 15 in any way to enter into this Agreement. In addition, after an 16 opportunity to consult with counsel, with respect to any actual 17 or potential conflict between my interests and the interests of 18 MRA Holdings, LLC and Mantra Films, Inc., I hereby waive any such 19 actual or potential conflicts. Finally, I am satisfied with the 20 representation of my attorney in this matter. 21 22 23

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9/25/06

Defendant

I have read this Agreement and carefully discussed every

I am JOSEPH R. FRANCIS' attorney. I have carefully discussed every part of this Agreement with my client. Further, I have fully advised my client of his rights, of possible defenses, of the Sentencing Guidelines' provisions, and of the consequences of entering into this Agreement. I have also explained to my client that this Agreement is part of a package agreement involving dispositions of charges against two of his companies in related cases in the Northern District of Florida and have discussed with him the advantages and disadvantages of entering into this Agreement as part of the package agreement. To my knowledge, my client's decision to enter into this Agreement as part of the package agreement is an informed and voluntary one and is not the result of any coercion or threats by anyone.

MARON DYER Counsel for Defendant JOSEPH R. FRANCIS

Attachment A

Mantra Films/MRA Holding Produced Footage

- PLAYBOY'S CASTING CALLS DVD VOLUME 1-12 CAUGHT ON TAPE VOLUME 1-4 COLLEGE GIRLS EXPOSED VOL 1-2 SEXY SORORITY SWEETHEARTS VOL 1-2 TOTALLY EXPOSED UNCENSORED AND BEYOND Vol 1-12 GIRLS GONE WILD ENDLESS SPRING Vol 1-14 GIRLS GONE WILD DORM ROOM FANTASIES Vol 1-9 GIRLS GONE WILD ON TOUR VOL 1-8 GIRLS GONE WILD ULTIMATE SPRING BREAK Vol 1-12 GGW BEST OF ENDLESS SPRING BREAK Vol 1-3 GGW BEST OF ULTIMATE SPRING BREAK Vol 1-2 GIRLS GONE WILD: BEST ON TOUR Vol 1-4 **GGW EXTREME UNCENSORED** GIRLS GONE WILD ON CAMPUS **GGW PARTY EXTREME** PRISON FILES Vol 1-2

Mantra Films/MRA Holding Licensed And Consignment Footage

More Lovers Caught on Tape Charlie's Guide to Lovemaking

Playboy's Casting Calls (vol. 1-13) Playboy Mansion Parties' Hottest Moments/Behind the Scenes Uncensored Playboy Mansion Parties Uncensored Caught on Tape (vol. 1-4) Co-Ed Tryouts Sex Around the House Prison Files (vol. 1-2) Party Extreme Blind Date Uncensored Blind Date Uncensored Deluxe Blind Date Dates From Hell Uncensored Blind Date Freaks and Weirdos **Erotic Seduction** Fantasy Fest 99 (vol. 1-4) Mardi Gras 99 (vol. 1-3) Memorial Weekend T&A 99 (vol. 1-3) Naked in Daytona 99 (vol. 1-2) Labor Day Wet T&A (vol. 1-3) Flashing in Public Girls of the Kentucky Derby Just Add Water Spring Break Lake Havasu Key to Bush Fantasy Fest Naked Mile Run Lesbian Lovers Caught on Tape Lovers Caught on Tape (vol. 1-3)

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Playboy Celebrities
Playboy Girlfriends
Playboy Girls Next Door Naughty and Nice
Playboy Girls of Hedonism
Playboy Playmate Erotic Adventures
Toys for Sex
Undercover Strippers
What Women Want
The Complete Anna Nicole Smith (vol. 1-2)

Javanek 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,) No. CR 06-12 Plaintiff,) INFORMATION 13 V. [18 U.S.C. § 2257(f)(1):) Failure to Make and Maintain 14) Required Records; 18 U.S.C. JOSEPH R. FRANCIS,) § 2: Aiding and Abetting and 15 Defendant.) Causing an Act to be Done] 16 17 18 19 The United States Attorney charges: 20 COUNTS ONE AND TWO 21 [18 U.S.C. § 2257(f)(1); 18 U.S.C. § 2] 22 23 24

- Mantra Films, Inc., is, and at all times relevant to this Information was, a business located in Santa Monica, California.
- Defendant JOSEPH R. FRANCIS is, and at all times 2. relevant to this Information was, the founder, primary or sole owner, and Chief Executive Officer of Mantra Films, Inc.

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III

Beginning on or about March 31, 2002, and continuing to on or about January 9, 2004, in the Central District of California and elsewhere, defendant JOSEPH R. FRANCIS, aided, abetted, counseled and induced by others, known and unknown to the United States Attorney, produced and caused to be produced 18 films, videotapes, and other matters, that is, DVDs bearing the following titles, which DVDs contained one or more visual depictions of actual sexually explicit conduct made after November 1, 1990, and were produced in whole or in part with materials which had been mailed or shipped in interstate and foreign commerce and were intended for shipment in interstate and foreign commerce, without maintaining individually identifiable 111

records pertaining to every performer portrayed in such visual depictions:

COUNT	COUNT		DVD TITLE				
ONE		"Ult	imate	Spring	Break,	Volume	3"
TWO		"Ult	imate	Spring	Break,	Volume	4"

DEBRA WONG YANG United States Attorney

BRENT D. WARD
Director
Obscenity Prosecution Task Force
Department of Justice